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Some short Remarks, on two Pamphlets lately Printed;

The one Entituled *Considerations upon the Trade to Guinea*; The other Entituled *Proposals for raising a New Company, for carrying on the Trades of Africa and the Spanish-West-Indies, under the Title of the United-Company.*

in 1708

AMONG the many complicated Difficulties, with which the Royal *African-Company* have been necessarily obliged to Struggle, these Twenty Years past, they reckon it none of their least Misfortunes (when the common Interest of *Britain* is languishing in *Africa*) to find themselves involved in a Dispute at home, with a set of Men, who suffer themselves to be led by the Caprice, Humour, and unaccountable Designs of Two or Three Persons, whose gross Ignorance of the *African Trade*, as well as unreasonable Malice against the Royal *African Company*, displays it self, in all that they say or write, upon that Head.

If ever any Paper was composed of a Rhapsody, of Fictitious, Positions, and Falacious Inferences; certainly this called *Considerations upon the Trade to Guinea* is one.

The Author founds all, his Computations upon mere imaginary Suppositions, throughout this learned Treatise of his, upon the *African-Trade*; and truly by his scorning to mention any Sum less than Hundreds Thousands of Pounds (which, for Modesty's sake, he forbears, as yet, to call Millions,) one might be apt to think, that he had been no small Proficient, in the Study of Dr. C——'s Talley-Project.

He makes his Calculate, from 100 Ships sent, to *Africa per Annum*, in time of Peace, and is mistaken, on the Freight of *Negroes*, just the one half, no less Sum than 100000*l.*

In the Freight of these Ships from the *West-Indies*, he mistakes 7*l.* of every Ten Pounds of his Computation: For the Customary Freight being about 3*l.* per Tun; he mistakes in his Article of 100000*l.* for 100 Ships, no less than 70000*l.* and the very same mistake, in a Subsequent Article of 100 Ships, makes 70000*l.* more: So that, upon the whole Freight of these, he mistakes 140000*l.*

Thus our Skilful Author Calculates, and (according to his way of reasoning) demonstrates the Improvement of Trade and Navigation, and the Profits arising thereby to the Nation; providing his wise and unerring Method be followed.

But alas! the separate Traders, by their own sad Experience, know that these Allegations and Suggestions are false in Fact; For when the Novelty of laying the Trade to *Africa* open, by Act of Parliament, tempted many Inconsiderate and Ignorant Persons to injure themselves, and the Company, and our National Interest in general, by trading to *Africa* separately, even during the first Years in time of Peace, the Natives impos'd upon them what Prices and Delays they pleased; in so much, that they were not able to procure, with their whole Cargoes, their Complements of *Negroes*, tho' incomparably short of the imaginary Number pretended by this Author: So that his other Article of Annual Returns in Gold, Elephants-Teeth, &c. to the value of 100000*l.* is purely Fictitious.

Several Ships were ruin'd, by reason of their long stay, on the Coast of *Africa*; and too many of Her Majesties Subjects perish'd, by reason thereof, and of the contagious Distempers arising from the unhealthiness of that Climate: And 'tis most certain that (beside the unspeakable prejudice, which their Trading in that Method did to the Company) most of the private Adventurers lost one half of their Capital, by this Experiment; Which disabled some, and discourag'd others ever since, from adventuring further on that Trade.

These are, and still must be, the destructive Consequences of trading in the Method proposed by the Author; who, indeed to speak plain, could give no better Evidence of his being a mere Ignoramus, in the *Africa* and Plantation-Trade, than by exposing

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posing these his wretched and ridiculous Considerations to publick View. But the truth is, a Composition of Ignorance, Confidence, Malice, Calumny and Arrogance has hitherto been the soul of his Party; and it seems by this piece of publick Performance, that he has not a mind to depart from them.

Nor can it be thought well a breach of Charity to conclude likewise, that the Author's Skill and Knowledge in the *Turkey Trade*, is much of a piece with that of the Former: For he proposes the Constitution of the *Turkey Company* as a Model, by which to regulate the Trade to *Africa*; which certainly he would not have done, if he had known (as unquestionably so it would have been) that by that Constitution not only himself, but likewise at least nine parts of ten, of all the Separate Traders to *Africa*, would of course, be wholly excluded from that Trade, as illegitimate Persons.

But to proceed; the Author's Calculate of 60 Ships, in time War, is also manifestly false; For, these several Years past; the Separate Traders have not sent above 16 Ships *per Annum* to *Africa*. And since the Author is so good at Printing, why does he not print the exact Numbers of *Negroes*, annually imported by the Separate Traders, these six or seven Years past, into *Barbados*, *Antegoa*, *Montserrat*, *Nevis*, *St. Christophers*, &c. and take care to have the same certified by the Planters; and at what Prices they sold them: To see how these would agree with the supposititious Numbers and Prices, which they gave in to the Lords Commissioners for Trade. That would be a convincing Evidence of the Sincerity of his Assertions; However it's probable that some other Person may very shortly save him the Trouble thereof, by doing it to his hand.

The Author, to be consistent with himself, goes on still in the same Notional Strain, and frames another Article of 100000*l.* Profit, to the Merchants and Insurers: But alas? there is too much ground to believe that, as the Traders have been so great Losers, so few or none of the Insurers will purchase Estates, by the Premiums received upon account of the *African-Trade*.

And notwithstanding the studied and artificial Dress, in which the Author seems, meanly and unworthily, to insult over the Royal *African Company's* Misfortunes, by spitting his Venom and groundless Calumnies, against the Managers of the Company, as if the Cause of these Misfortunes lay at their Door; They make no doubt of Vindicating themselves, and the Justice of their Case, to the conviction of all the unbiass'd part of Mankind, whenever they'll have the Happiness of a full hearing, before the Parliament. And as little do they doubt, to detect and confute the Author's Folly, as well as his Ignorance of the Trade, in which he presumes to instruct the Legislators of the Nation, by confidently distributing his System of Non-sense, to the several Members of the Honourable House of Commons, at the Door of their House.

Nota, The Royal *African-Company* have, some time ago, Printed a Memorial, touching the Nature and State of the Trade to *Africa*; yet (for brevity's sake) the Author of the aforesaid Considerations, not thinking fit to take the least notice thereof; The Reader is hereby referr'd to the said Memorial, for an Account of what its Title Imports.

THEN as to the other Pamphlet, Intituled *Proposals*, &c. the Author seems to be, not only a much more generous Adversary, and a better Moralist too, but also a far greater Master of Reason and good Sense, than the other aforementioned; and has most just Sentiments of such a Constitution, as is futable to all Adventures and Undertakings, to remote parts of the World, commonly attended with Difficulties and precarious Circumstances; and wherein readily a co-ercive Power must be exercised. Yet, as there is no such thing existent as a perfect Man; so it's presumed this Gentleman will not pretend, to plead Exemption from having, in common with the rest of Mankind, at least some small share of human Failing.

The first Instance, thereof which seems most Apparent by his Writing, is his Credulity, in taking the Separate Traders calumnious Representations, against the Royal *African-Company*, as granted; without having ever examin'd the Truth thereof, or having traced out the Original Cause of such Mistakes, Commissions or Omissions, as, are clamorously charged upon the Managers.

gers of the Company; and then his Condemning them, without being heard in their own Defence. However that not being apparently an Error in the Intention, so much as the Effect of a proneness in Man's Nature, to believe evil rather than good of our Neighbours, renders it the more excusable in the Author, tho' it be equally injurious to the Company, till that Prejudice be remov'd.

There was an Act pass'd, in the last Parliament for encouraging the making Acquisitions and Settlements, in the *Spanish-West-Indies*; But (as the Author of the Proposal very well observes) that Act wanting an exclusive Clause, nothing came of it. And if the Royal *African-Company's* Charter had not been granted with an exclusive Clause, for their Encouragement, (which they then conceived to be an undubitable Security) they had never been such Fools and Mad-Men as to have launch'd out such vast Sums, as they have done, from time to time, for improving and carrying on this Trade, and in purchasing, building and mantaining of Forts and Settlements, on the Coast of *Africa*, for others to reap the Benefit thereof. Nor would it have been found Practicable, without such exclusive priviledges, to have perswaded them, or any other sett of Men, to have rais'd a Stock, for that End.

The Author of the Proposal, presupposing, it seems; the Allegations and Suggestions of the Separate Traders to be true, does, at one Dash, in a manner annihilate the Name, Constitution, Stock and Property of the Company; and by allowing them only a very precarious Equivalent, he proposes to raise a new united Company, on the Foundation which they have laid; by Joining the *African-Trade*, to his *Spanish-West-India* Project.

The Truth is, how injurious soever this Project might have been, to the Interest of the Royal *African-Company*, in case it should take place, the Proposer must be allowed to be no Fool, for his own Purpose; but how the Mannagers of the Company can plead Exemption from being reckon'd so, and perhaps worse, if they should close with him, is worthy of their Consideration.

They have purchased, built and maintained, their Forts and Settlements, at a continued vast expense; They are still willing and capable to raise a sufficient Stock, for the effectual carrying on and preserving the *African* Trade to the Nation, if the Parliament shall think fit to confirm their Charter; (as 'tis hoped they may) or grant them a sutable Constitution.

The *African* Trade is already brought to such a Consistency, as that it wants no more than a sutable Stock and Constitution, to make it one of the most certain and Advantageous Trades in the World, for this Island and the *British* Plantations in *America*: and when an Experiment is made of letting the Royal *African-Company* enjoy the Benefit of their Charter; under the Sanction of a Parliamentary Constitution; without any Disturbance or Interruption, from the Vexatious and Injurious Practices of our own private Traders, for a certain term of Years; Then, and not till then, can it be reasonable to charge the Managers, with having mis-employ'd their Time or Talent: Which is manifest they did not, during the short time, that they had the Countenance and Protection of the Government, before the Revolution.

The Proposer, very justly considering the universally acknowledg'd importance of the *Guinea-Trade* to *Britain*, would make a handle thereof, and of some Analogy which it bears with the *West-India-Trade*, in supplying the Plantations with *Negroes*; for procuring a Constitution sutable to his own Project; by joining it with the *African-Trade*, under the Title of the United-Company.

How reasonable soever this new Project may be in it self, if separately settled; no good reason, can be given for imbroiling and perplexing the *African-Trade* with it, Nor can the Royal *African-Company* think of uniting with a Non-entity, as being indeed a Paradox which can never obtain the Suffrage of the Legislative Body, by making a compulsory Act for that end. But after that a new Society shall happen to be establish'd for making the proposed new Acquisitions, and have secured some valuable Settlements in the *Spanish-West-Indies*; Then, if at all, and not till then, may it be reasonable to think of uniting both those Trades, under the Management of one Society.

As to that Suggar-plumb propos'd to the Country-Gentlemen, and those who have lately united with us; it must be allowed, that it will be more for their Interest, to be left at their liberty of Joining in the *African-Trade* apart; or in the *Spanish-West-India* Project apart; or in both separately; or in neither; according to their different Inclinations, than to be tied up so as that they cannot Join in the one, without being, at the same time, necessarily obliged to Join in the other.

As to that Scandalous Allegation of the separate Traders (which the Proposer takes upon trust) that the Managers of the *African-Company* have cheated the Nation, by dividing their Stock, among the several Adventurers; it is a most gross and injurious Calumny: For by Particulars and proper Vouchers, ready to be produced to the Parliament, it will appear; That during the last and present War, the Company's Losses have been upwards of 400000 l. and the small Dividends made among the Adventurers, were indeed but in the nature of Premiums and Encouragements, for contributing much larger Sums, from time to time, for upholding and carrying on

on the Trade, and preserving their Forts and Settlements, until a convenient Season should offer, for laying their Grievances before the Parliament.

In respect of all which, it is hoped that the Wisdom of the Parliament may think fit, to put an end to all further Vexatious and destructive Divisions and different Interests, in the Management of a Trade so important to *Britain*, as that to *Africa* is universally acknowledg'd to be; by investing the Company with such necessary Privileges, as may encourage and enable them effectually to support and improve the same, in every branch thereof, to the Honour, Credit and Advantage of this Nation, and the *British* Plantations thereunto belonging.

[illegible]

The fact that the Republic's independence is being threatened by the Government of the State of New York, as well as the Government of the United States, is a matter of public knowledge. The Government of the State of New York has been notified by the Government of the United States that it is proposed to take a new national Company, on the condition which they have made, by joining the same, to the Spanish-American Project.

The French is now interested, however, this French might have been to the interest of the Royal African Company, in that it would not have the monopoly that he allowed to be so free, for his own benefit, but for the advantage of the company and the French Government from being removed to, and perhaps would, if they think this will not, is worthy of their consideration.

They are still willing and capable to take a judicious block, for the effectual carrying on and

The present Trade is already brought to such a point, as that it would be no longer profitable to make it one of the most certain and advantageous trades in the world, for this kind and the Supply of it is in America; and when

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the Government and President of the Revolution, which is possible only if they do not during the first time, that they had

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As to the suggestion proposed to the County Committee, and those who have lately united with us, it will be allowed, that it will be more for their interest, to be left at their liberty of joining in the Atlantic Trade society, or in the Spanish Fish-trade society; or in the Fish-trade society, than to be tied up to the County Committee, and those who have lately

in the other.

It is also true that the Managers of the Spirit-Company operated the Nation by dividing their profits among themselves; for by law they were entitled to do so.

Small Divisions made among the Adventurers, who moved but in the name of Freedom and Liberty during the late and protracted War, the Government will have been upwards of 100,000, and it is certain that they will appear; it will appear; it will appear.

agencies, the contracting work larger than it was, let upholding and carrying

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